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# AFGHANISTAN

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## FACT SHEET

### Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP)

#### OVERVIEW

Continued recovery and sustainable development in Afghanistan depends on the growth of licit agriculture and agribusinesses. USAID's Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP) is designed to revitalize and improve global competitiveness of Afghanistan's agriculture sector. Through ASAP, USAID provides strategic support to public and private-sectors nationwide with the overarching goals of improving agricultural production, increasing sales and exports, generating new jobs, and introducing modern agricultural technologies. USAID uses field-tested methods and a buyer-led approach to develop Afghanistan's private agricultural sector as a primary engine of economic growth.

#### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Agribusiness investments and deals:** Provide support to establish agri-business facilities that add value to produce, create jobs, and improve livelihoods
- **Agriculture inputs:** Develop privately owned and operated businesses that cater to farmers and herders, including rural farm stores (AgDepots) and veterinary clinics (veterinary field units) that provide quality services and inputs to improve crop and livestock productivity
- **Agriculture services:** Train farmers in proper agricultural practices from planting to post-harvest handling and educate herders on livestock health and the value of cashmere
- **Advisory services:** Support the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) in developing and implementing a plan for private-sector development

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Facilitated more than \$49 million in increased sales and increased exports of Afghan agricultural products
- Held 11 AgFairs, which have generated business contacts and demand for Afghan products
- Established the Badam Bagh Demonstration Farm in Kabul, which serves as a training venue for farmers, students, and Afghan government staff
- Created a network of 370 AgDepot farms stores across the country, which have generated almost \$6.5 million in gross sales of items such as grape trellises, pesticides, seeds, and fertilizer
- Supported 446 Veterinary Field Units that provide animal healthcare services in rural areas, with more than 48 million vaccines and medicines administered to livestock to date
- Provided agricultural productivity training to about 400,000 Afghans, covering subjects such as grape trellising, land surveying, and cashmere harvesting
- Supported the establishment of Afghanistan's first juice concentrate facility, refurbished Afghanistan's only pack-house, and created a modern cold-storage facility
- Created, in partnership with MAIL, a new initiative called the Afghanistan Land Authority that will streamline the leasing of government-owned land
- Forged a partnership with local women's organization for the harvesting and sale of produce grown on Badam Bagh Demonstration Farm
- Established and transferred the National Agriculture Information Service, a database that improves access to agriculture data and promotes evidence-based planning and decision-making, to the MAIL
- Employed more than 18,000 workers through cash-for-work activities, which have resulted in the improvement of an estimated 202,000 hectares of land